

**Luke Field/AFB and
56th Fighter Wing
Chronology
1941 - 2008**



**56th Fighter Wing History Office
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History of Luke AFB

On 8 August 1940, the same day the Battle of Britain began, President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed the military to produce 12,000 pilots annually. In response to that order, the Army Air Corps conducted feasibility studies for the construction of eight new air fields. Phoenix City Manager Donald C. Scott announced on 13 February 1941 that the War Department had approved a site two miles north of the town of Litchfield Park, AZ, for the construction of an advanced single engine flying training base. The site not only had almost year-round flying weather, but it also enjoyed proximity to vast stretches of Sonoran Desert that were ideal for bombing and gunnery practice. Two days later, Lt Col Ennis C. Whitehead arrived in the area to supervise construction of the base and to act as its first commander.

Ground was broken for Litchfield Park AB on 31 March 1941, and on 6 June 1941 the installation was renamed Luke Field for 2d Lt Frank Luke, Jr., a Phoenix native who was a World War I ace and the first aviator to be awarded the Medal of Honor. The first student pilot class began training the next day. During World War II, Luke Field produced 17,321 graduates from fighter training programs for the US and its allies. The base closed on 30 November 1946.

Luke was redesignated an air force base when it reopened on 1 February 1951 in response to a need for fighter aircrews generated by the Korean Conflict. The base was initially equipped with F-51 Mustang and F-84 Thunderjet aircraft. In 1957 Luke AFB joined the supersonic age when the F-100 Super Sabre was assigned to the installation. That was followed in 1964 by foreign military sales programs in the F-104 Starfighter and the F-5A Freedom Fighter. The A-7D Corsair arrived in 1969, but was reassigned when the decision was made to make Luke USAF's primary F-4 Phantom II training base. The first F-4 was assigned in 1971. The first of the "Superfighters," the F-15 Eagle, was assigned to the base in 1974 followed in 1982 by the second "Superfighter," the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and then the F-15E Strike Eagle arrived in 1988. Three years later, in 1991, a decision to make Luke AFB the service's primary F-16 training base led to the reassignment of the F-15 and four years later, in 1995, the F-15E was reassigned.

Prior to the reassignment of the F-15E, the real world political and military situation resulted in a perceived lessening of international tensions and resulted in a down-sizing of the nation's military. Senior Air Force leadership moved to ensure the most highly decorated units in USAF history remained part of the active force during the drawdown. That led to the reassignment of one of the most highly decorated units in USAF history, the 56th Fighter Wing, from scheduled-to-close MacDill AFB, Florida, to Luke AFB on 1 April 1994. Since 1941, Luke has produced more than 56,300 graduates from fighter training programs for the US and its allies and is truly: " The Home of the Fighter Pilot."

Luke Field/AFB Chronology

08 Aug 40 President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered military to produce 12,000 pilots annually for proposed 54-group Army Air Corps.

01 Oct 40 Lt Col Arthur L Wilson, Army's airport engineer chief, arrived in Phoenix to discuss possible establishment of flying training base.

26 Nov 40 Brig Gen Henry W. Harms, West Coast Training Center commander, recommended Phoenix site to War Department for construction of advanced single engine flying training base.

17 Dec 40 President Roosevelt increased target for annual pilot production from 12,000 to 30,000.

13 Feb 41 Phoenix City Manager Donald C. Scott announced War Dept OK for site just north of Litchfield Park for construction of air base and leased to Army for \$1 annually.

31 Mar 41 Del Webb Construction Company broke ground for first building.

21 Apr 41 Litchfield Park Air Base formally designated.

01 Jun 41 2d Lt Martin D. Mulligan, a flight instructor piloting an AT-6 Texan, made first landing at base.

06 Jun 41 Base renamed Luke Field for 2d Lt Frank Luke, Jr., Phoenix native who achieved triple ace status in WW I and first aviator awarded Medal of Honor.

07 Jun 41 Class 41-F began training at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport.

20 Jun 41 Army Air Corps redesignated Army Air Forces.

15 Jul 41 Flight operations moved from Sky Harbor to Luke Field.

15 Aug 41 Class 41-F and 43 students first class to complete training.

05 Sep 41 President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8892 withdrawing federal lands at Gila Bend from public use and set land aside for bombing/gunnery practice.

29 Sep 41 Luke Field formally dedicated.

07 Dec 41 Nation's entry into WW II saw Luke construction 95% complete with facilities for 3,700 personnel.

26 Dec 41 Federal judge authorized government to seize cattle on Gila Bend Range. Ranchers had grazing rights under Taylor Grazing Act and refused to move herds after President Roosevelt issued his 5 Sep order. Judge's ruling prompted ranchers to move herds.

-- Dec 41 Heavy rains caused flooding; base covered with silt and debris.

09 Jan 42 2d Lt Richard I. Bong completed AT-6 advanced training as a member of Class 42-A. He was all-time top US ace with 40 kills and received Medal of Honor.

30 Jan 42 Gila Bend Gunnery Range placed on exempted status.

18 Mar 42 Executive Order 9104 issued and again allowed military use of Gila Bend Range.

27 Mar 42 First Chinese AF (CAF) AT-6 class, 42-E, graduated 42 students.

25 May 42 Project started to modify irrigation ditches/drainage canals to carry excess flood waters away from base.

22 Jun 42 P-40 Warhawk training began.

14 Jul 42 Heavy rains filled canal near base and resulted in flood.

-- Sep 42 Heavy rains damaged Luke Field and disrupted training.

12 Sep 42 First CAF P-40 class, 42-F, graduated 40 students.

02 Oct 42 First Army Air Forces class completed P-40 training.

06 Nov 42 Interior Dept Order 56 issued allowing military use of Gila Bend Range.

14 Mar 43 Base's P-40 operational training unit revised into P-40 fighter transition training program.

-- Apr 43 First US P-40 fighter transition class graduated.

05 Jun 43 First Women's Army Auxiliary Corps members arrived at Luke.

-- Jul 43 Record-setting 49,784 sorties flown in one month.

-- Dec 43 Luke produced record 6,447 graduates during year.

07 Feb 44 The one-millionth hour flown at Luke.

23 Aug 44 First Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) arrived at Luke.

20 Dec 44 WASP unit inactivated.

-- Dec 44 Luke had 546 aircraft, the largest number ever assigned to base.

28 Feb 45 Executive Order 9526 issued allowing military use of Gila Bend Range.

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13 Mar 45 P-38 Lightning fighter transition training began.

-- Jul 45 P-51 Mustang fighter transition training began.

14 Aug 45	P-40, P-38, and P-51 training terminated for US pilots.
13 Oct 45	CAF P-40 training ended .
15 May 46	CAF P-51 training ended.
15 May 46	Class 46-A (AT-6) graduated as last class at Luke.
30 Nov 46	3028th Army Air Forces Air Base Unit inactivated at Luke. Base became auxiliary of Williams Field. Luke produced 17,231 graduates training during WW II. Graduates included 13,568 US and 508 CAF in AT-6, 2,483 US and 331 CAF in P-40, 280 US in P-38, and 61 US graduates in P-51 program.
30 Nov 46	Gila Bend Range reassigned to Williams Field and redesignated Williams Bombing and Gunnery Range.
28 May 48	Congress enacted Public Law 561 allowing military use of range.
01 Jan 51	Luke redesignated an air force base; removed from inactive list in response to need for fighter aircrews generated by Korean Conflict.
01 Feb 51	127th Fighter Wing (Michigan ANG) federalized and assigned to Luke as 127th Pilot Training Wing (PTW). Base equipped with AT-6 Texan, F-51 Mustang, and F-84 Thunderjet aircraft.
01 Jul 51	Intense rains flood base. Residents of nearby Glendale took in military families whose quarters damaged by flooding.
14 Nov 51	Gunnery range reassigned from Williams to Luke as were Gila Bend and Dateland AF Auxiliary Fields.
02 May 52	Federal government took possession of 600,000 acres of public domain land to expand range at Gila Bend.
01 Nov 52	127PTW defederalized and 3600th Flying (later renamed Combat Crew) Training Wing activated as Luke host unit.
21 Apr 53	F-51 program ended after producing 624 graduates.
01 Jun 53	3600th USAF Air Demonstration Team, the Thunderbirds, formed at Luke.
-- Dec 53	Range at Gila Bend included over 2 million acres of public lands and over 600,000 acres leased from state or private landowners.
04 Sep 54	Capt Edward W. Kenny won Bendix Trophy Air Race/Bendix Trophy in F-84F when set cross-country record of three hours and two minutes for average speed of 616 miles per hour.
07 Apr 56	USAF gained title to land on which base situated from Phoenix for \$1.
31 May 56	Thunderbirds moved to Nellis AFB, Nevada, to fly supersonic-capable F-100 Super Sabres assigned there.
23 Aug 57	First German AF class entered F-84 training. Class included World War II aces Maj Erich Hartmann (352 kills and world's leading ace) and Lt Col Gunther Rall (275 kills). Both posted their records on Eastern Front.
08 Nov 57	First F-100 Super Sabre delivered to Luke.
01 Jul 58	Luke reassigned from Air Training Command (ATC) to Tactical Air Command (TAC) in move to place all fighter training under TAC. 3600CCTW inactivated; 4510CCTW became host unit.
-- Sep 59	Saguaro Manor base housing north of Glendale Ave opened with 724 units.
10 Jun 60	Phoenix Air Defense Sector, Luke's largest tenant unit, moved into "Blockhouse," bldg 1150, which was designed to withstand near miss by a nuclear device.
05 Jul 60	F-86F program transferred to Luke from Williams AFB.
23 Oct 60	302d Special Operations Sq (SOS) assigned to base.
27 Sep 62	F-86F program transferred to Nellis AFB after producing 123 graduates.
06 Mar 63	Range redesignated Luke Air Force Range.
01 Apr 64	First F-104 student sortie flown under USAF/German AF F-104 Starfighter Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program.
30 Apr 64	First F-5A Freedom Fighter delivered to 4441st Combat Crew Training Sq at Williams AFB. Program conducted by Luke but based at Williams due to commonality of
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	maintenance/parts between F-5 and Williams T-38 trainer.
11 Jun 64	F-84 program ended after producing 6,930 graduates.
22 Jul 65	Project Skoshi Tiger conducted to determine combat effectiveness of F-5A. Success of test resulted in basing jets in South Vietnam.

12 Dec 67	Luke was operations center for Operation Haylift which saved 500,000 snowbound Indian livestock in northern Arizona.
01 Sep 69	First A-7D Corsair delivered to base as part of plan to conduct fighter training in jet at Luke.
15 Oct 69	4510CCTW inactivated and 58th Tactical Fighter Training Wing (TFTW) activated as Luke host unit in move to redesignate training wings as fighter wings with combat histories. Also, 69th Tactical Fighter Training Sq (TFTS) and 418TFTS activated as F-104 units, and 425TFTS activated as F-5 unit.
15 Dec 69	310TFTS, which was historically aligned with 58TFTW, activated to conduct A-7D training.
18 Jan 70	311TFTS, which was historically aligned with 58TFTW, activated to conduct F-100 training, and 426th and 550TFTS activated to conduct F-100 training.
13 Feb 70	First A-7D class entered training.
-- Feb 71	Ocotillo Manor south of Glendale Ave opened with 150 units.
08 Mar 70	Reassignment of A-7D program to Davis-Month AFB announced to make room for F-4 training.
07 May 71	Wing received first F-4C Phantom II.
20 Jul 71	Last A-7D class graduated. Program moved to Davis-Monthan after producing 143 graduates.
30 Aug 71	F-100 program ended after producing 3,451 graduates.
15 Dec 72	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) study submitted to Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to assist in planning for compatible land use near Luke. Board judged requests for development on case-by-case basis as impossible in 1972 to determine what noise zones to adopt for what areas, and board's authority to zone based on noise was questioned.
06 Apr 73	First F-5E Tiger II delivered to 425TFTS.
05 Jul 74	555TFTS reassigned without assets from Thailand to Luke and named as USAF's first F-15A Eagle squadron.
14 Nov 74	First F-15A Eagle in USAF's operational inventory delivered to Luke. Event presided over by President Gerald Ford.
17 Jan 75	Group called Westside Property Owners filed suit against Luke charging F-15 beddown violated 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, that jet created air/noise pollution, it posed dangerous accident threat, and that environmental impact statement (EIS) on beddown contained misleading/inaccurate statements.
20 Aug 75	First F-15 repainted from air superiority blue to gray.
-- --- 76	1976 Luke AICUZ published as land use planning guide. Report listed noise/accident potential zones near base caused by air operations. Study had no enforcement power.
17 Jun 76	Federal judge ruled in favor of Luke in Westside Property Owners' suit (see entry 17 Jan 75).
23 Jun 76	Second F-15 squadron, the 4461TFTS, activated.
01 Oct 76	F-104 program began scaling down with inactivation of 418TFTS.
15 Nov 76	Five Israeli AF pilots completed F-15 course, F1500F, with 555TFTS as members of Class 76 AFL.
01 Apr 77	New intermediate headquarters, Tactical Training Luke (TTL), activated and 58TFTW redesignated a tactical training wing (TTW) under the headquarters.
01 Jul 77	4461TFTS inactivated and 461TFTS activated to assume that unit's assets/mission.
Ca 1977	Glendale annexed a 10-foot-wide strip around Luke to protect it from encroachment.
06 Jun 78	Fire from ground accident between two F-15s resulted in first CORKER (boron composite fibers subjected to combustion became electromagnetically charged and shorted out electrical systems).
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29 Aug 79	58TTW conducted F-4/F-104/F-15/F-5 training. Span of control problems led to activation of second wing, 405TTW, to assume F-5/F-15 programs while 58th retained F-4/F-104 programs.
21 Nov 80	302SOS helicopters rescued 17 people during fire at MGM Grande Hotel in Las Vegas.

01 Dec 80 TTL inactivated and 832d Air Division (AD) activated as Luke host unit in move to do away with nonstandard organizations.

01 Jan 81 426TFTS reassigned from 58th to 405TTW. 58th left with its original World War II squadrons, the 69th, 310th, and 311th.

06 Apr 81 First of 12 Japanese pilots entered F-15 training under Peace Eagle Program.

04 Aug 81 First of 12 Saudi pilots entered F-15 training under Peace Sun Program.

29 Jun 82 F-4 program ended after producing 3,147 graduates.

06 Dec 82 First F-16A/B jet delivered to 58TTW.

25 Jan 83 Training began in F-16 with Class 83 AIL in IP course.

16 Mar 83 USAF/German AF F-104 Starfighter Program ended after producing 2,200 graduates for NATO air forces. The 69TFTS, which conducted the F-104 program, was inactivated.

06 Apr 83 Foreign training began in F-16 as four Pakistanis entered TX course with 311TFTS.

--Dec 83 58TTW proposed LF for use on F-16 tails to differentiate 58TTW from 405TTW jets. All Luke host unit jets had used LA on tails since 1957. Request approved, but extended to all Luke host unit aircraft.

23 Dec 83 26th NORAD Region/Air Division (formerly Phoenix Air Defense Sector), Luke tenant unit, moved to March AFB, CA.

24 Dec 83 Media reported dispute between Luke/El Mirage over base's opposition to envisioned \$70 million El Mirage project. Luke opposed project as homes planned too close to runways. Initial findings of upcoming AICUZ revealed proposed development would be in high noise areas.

01 Oct 84 312TFTS activated as USAF's first F-16C/D squadron.

05 Nov 84 First F-16C/D in USAF's inventory delivered to 58TTW.

-- Jan 85 12AF Aerial Demonstration Team formed at Luke to demonstrate F-16 capabilities at sites not usually visited by Thunderbirds.

-- May 85 1985 Luke AICUZ published and included expanded high noise areas to north resulting from departures to northeast turning west earlier to avoid overflights of most of El Mirage, and because F-15E operations were factored in.

26 Jun 85 Interstate 10 near Luke completed. It improved access to West Valley and attractiveness of West Valley developments.

25 Jul 85 Peoples Republic of China delegation visited base to look for possible areas of cooperation between Peoples Liberation Army and USAF.

10 Apr 86 State revised annexation law and required municipality to be adjacent to unincorporated land and have OK from landowners before could annex it (see entry ca. 1977).

02 May 86 Arizona Senate Bill 1011 signed into law. It intended to direct compatible land use in areas affected by military air operations, but weakened in House when zoning left to municipalities and suggested rather than directed compatible land use.

30 Jun 86 After close coordination with Luke AFB, a new Glendale Airport was opened some four miles east of the base.

01 Oct 86 Maricopa County Joint Land-Use Study (JLUS) Committee conducted own noise study on Luke operations. USAF contributed \$60,000 for study.

01 Oct 86 314TFTS activated as 58TTW's fourth F-16 unit.

06 Nov 86 Congress passed Land Withdrawal Act requiring 832AD to submit EIS to Congress on effects of fighter training on Luke AF Range environment. Congress withdrew range from public use until 2001.

-- --- 86 Papago Indians at Sells, Arizona, change name to Tohono O'odham.

23 Mar 87 Luke Range renamed Barry M. Goldwater Range for retired US Senator Barry M. Goldwater (Rep, AZ). At dedication Goldwater declared, "...Luke Air Force Base will be here forever."

09 Jun 87 US Supreme Court ruling on taking directed landowners be compensated when new

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restrictions denied them use of their land.

01 Jul 87 944FG (AFRES) activated. 302SOS redesignated tactical fighter squadron, equipped with F-16s, and assigned to 944FG.

21 Dec 87 USAF canceled plans to base Midgetman Missile on Goldwater Range. Basing system on

range would have restricted its use as overflying nuclear sites prohibited.

04 Mar 88 First class of two Republic of Singapore AF (RSAF) pilots entered training with 311TFTS under a Peace Carvin FMS Program.

12 Apr 88 First F-15E Strike Eagle in USAF delivered to 461TFTS.

01 Sep 88 County officials approved JLUS study that reduced noise zones near Luke by 4,000 acres over 1985 AICUZ study.

01 Apr 89 4444th Ops Sq activated and assigned to 832AD.

02 May 89 First Block 42 F-16C/D in USAF delivered to 58TTW.

15 May 89 550TFTS became 405TTW's second F-15E training unit.

17 May 89 First low altitude navigation and targeting infra-red for night (LANTIRN) system accepted into USAF inventory at Luke.

01 Sep 89 F-5 FMS program ended after producing 1,499 graduates locally and over 200 more in customer nations through deployment of mobile training teams. 425TFTS, unit that conducted program, inactivated.

05 Oct 89 Soviet Defense Minister Yazov visited base.

-- Oct 89 832AD Support Center activated in Blockhouse, bldg 1150, and relieved some of base's facilities shortfall.

26 Dec 89 310TFTS conducted Blacklight exercise and became first unit to drop live ordnance on uncontrolled range at night using LANTIRN system.

03 Jan 90 Peace Carvin Program ended.

29 Nov 90 426TFTS, 405TTW F-15 fighter squadron, inactivated.

18 Jan 91 312TFTS inactivated as USAF drewdown F-16A/B units. Unit's jets reassigned to more historically significant 311TFTS.

26 Feb 91 Last F-16A/B used for training USAF pilots left Luke.

11 Apr 91 Operation Desert Storm ended. Luke deployed over 600 personnel in support of operations, including 13 pilots who flew 258 combat missions and provided real-world training in LANTIRN system.

15 Apr 91 USAF announced plan to consolidate all RegAF F-16C/D training at Luke.

01 Oct 91 Major force structure realignment inactivated 832AD and 405TTW while 58TTW redesignated a fighter wing (FW) and Luke host unit. Reorganization implemented objective wing, did away with deputy commanders for operations, maintenance, and resource management, and set up operations, logistics, support, and medical groups. 4444th Ops Squadron reassigned to TAC.

01 Nov 91 All TFTS units redesignated fighter squadrons (FS).

14 Nov 91 550FS inactivated; 555FS assumed unit's F-15E assets/mission.

09 Dec 91 Fifty years of stemming encroachment ended as county officials approved JLUS recommendation allowing some residential development in high noise areas near Luke.

20 Dec 91 Last F-15A Eagle left Luke and F-15A/B/C/D program ended after producing 3,303 graduates since 1974.

01 May 92 607th Air Control Sq (ACS) assigned to 58FW. It had been a Davis-Monthan AFB unit but based at Luke as a tenant.

01 Jun 92 In another reorganization, TAC inactivated and Air Combat Command (ACC) activated. Luke and 58FW reassigned to ACC.

01 Jul 92 Reorganization on 1 Oct 91 also merged component repair sq (CRS) and equipment maintenance sq (EMS) into 58th Maintenance Sq. Span of control problems led new squadron to split into two units, the 58CRS and 58EMS.

11 Aug 92 Phoenix civic leaders traveled to Wash DC and met USAF secretary/USAF vice chief of staff to stress area's support for continued existence of Luke. Group met ACC commander next day to stress same message.

17 Aug 92 Tests concluded overflights of bat caves on range had no significant impact on Sanborne

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long-nosed bats which were vital in pollinating desert plantlife.

20 Sep 92 Intense storms caused overflow of Dysart Drainage Canal north of base, resulted in over \$3 million in damage to base housing. Flood caused by land subsidence of 17 feet due to long-term pumping of ground water.

30 Dec 92	425FS activated to conduct Peace Carvin II Program. Program designed to provide RSAF F-16-qualified pilots with continuation training in F-16A/B.
25 Feb 93	63FS reassigned from 56FW to 58FW as Block 42 F-16C/D unit.
31 Mar 93	Williams AFB closed with inactivation of 82d Flying Training Wing. Luke assumed responsibility for servicing some 27,000 retirees in East Valley.
18 May 93	Governor's Regional Airport Advisory Committee, formed to determine if Phoenix area aviation needs better served by regional or reliever airport, recommended Williams AFB be used as reliever airport. Luke favored recommendation as regional airport (at Casa Grande) could have affected access to range.
01 Jul 93	58FW reassigned from ACC to Air Education and Training Command (AETC) in move to place all training units in AETC. Wing's lone operational unit, 607ACS, remained in ACC and reassigned to Davis-Monthan AFB but based at Luke as a tenant.
22 Sep 93	Work began on \$12 million Dysart Canal project to protect base from future flooding.
09 Oct 93	Luke and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed agreement putting base on road to full environmental compliance.
23 Oct 93	Range Management Office established as a wing staff agency to manage operations, scheduling, maintenance of range.
15 Nov 93	USAF announced F-15E to move to Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, in 1995 due to facilities saturation at Luke. Move being made to accommodate Taiwan AF (TAF) F-16 training program and an F-16 international flying training activity (IFTA).
23 Dec 93	EPA policy change requiring federal projects conform to state environmental requirements resulted in AETC issuing moratorium on beddown of additional F-16s at Luke. Moratorium in effect until assessment completed to determine effects of beddown on environment.
31 Dec 93	All 58FW jets equipped with Pratt and Whitney 200 engine retrofitted with 220E engine in move to decrease engine maintenance and enhance safety.
10 Feb 94	First female fighter pilot in USAF history, 1st Lt Jeannie M. Flynn, completed F-15E basic course with 555FS.
28 Feb 94	In move to ensure most highly decorated units remained in active fighter force during period of military drawdown, USAF directed 56FW be reassigned from scheduled-to-close MacDill AFB, FL, to Luke, effective 1 April 1994. 56th to move without personnel/equipment and take over 58FW assets/ mission.
10 Mar 94	Environmental assessment/conformity analysis completed and revealed basing of additional F-16s at Luke would have no significant impact. Assessment resulted in lifting of moratorium on beddown of additional F-16s at Luke (see entry 23 Dec 93).
18 Mar 94	62FS activated at Luke as Block 25 F-16C/D training unit.
25 Mar 94	555FS inactivated and 550FS activated to assume 555FS' assets/mission and complete F-15E program transfer.
01 Apr 94	58FW redesignated a special operations wing and reassigned to Kirtland AFB, NM. Most 58-numbered units inactivated as did the 311FS and 314FS. 56FW moved from MacDill to Luke and assumed assets/mission of 58FW. 308FS moved from Moody AFB, GA, to Luke and assigned to 56FW. All 56-numbered groups and squadrons, including four new medical squadrons, activated and assigned to 56FW as were the 61FS and 309FS. Additionally, the 62FS, 63FS, 310FS, 425FS, 461FS, and 550FS were reassigned from 58FW to 56FW.

Luke chronology joins with that of 56FW, effective 1 April 1994 on page 12.

56th Fighter Wing History

The 56th Fighter Wing, one of the most highly decorated aviation units in history, traced its heritage to the 56th Pursuit Group which first activated on 15 January 1941 at Savannah AB, GA. The unit was redesignated a fighter

group and equipped with the P-47 Thunderbolt when it was reassigned to England. The 56th flew its first combat missions of World War II on 13 April 1943. During its two-year involvement in the air war in Europe, the group damaged or destroyed 1,598.5 enemy aircraft. What seemed incredible was that the 56th posted that record while losing only 25 fighters in aerial combat. The group also produced 39 fighter aces. Possibly the unit's most significant accomplishment was on 14 January 1945 when it destroyed German synthetic oil facilities at Magdeberg, Germany. After the war, Luftwaffe Chief Herman Goering said destruction of those facilities caused an oil shortage and resulted in collapse of the German war machine.

After World War II, the 56th Fighter Group was assigned at Selfridge Field, MI. On 15 August 1947, the 56th Fighter Wing was activated with the 56th Fighter Group as a subordinate unit. The wing's mission was air defense. The unit wrote another chapter in aviation history when on 14 July 1948 its F-80 Shooting Stars made the first ever west-to-east crossing of the Atlantic by military jets. The flight was a month after the Soviets set up their blockade of Berlin, and put the Soviets on notice that this nation had the capability to deploy a large package of military aircraft across the Atlantic in minimum time.

The 56th was reassigned to Southeast Asia on 16 March 1967. While in Southeast Asia the wing not only supported but also conducted combat operations against an opposing armed enemy force.

The wing was reassigned to MacDill AFB, FL, on 1 June 1975 and conducted combat aircrew training in the F-4 and later fighter training in the F-16. When MacDill AFB was named to close because of a general downsizing of the military due to the real-world political situation, the 56th was named to remain part of the active fighter force. On 1 April 1994, the 56th Fighter Wing was reassigned to Luke AFB, Arizona.

Today, the 56th Fighter Wing, a unit which historically has proven to have fighter pilots second to none, continues a mission that has been identified with Luke AFB since 1941: "Training Fighter Pilots Second to None."

56th Fighter Wing Chronology

15 Jan 41	56th Pursuit Group (Interceptor) activated and assigned at Savannah AB, GA, equipped with P-39 Airacobra.
15 May 42	Unit redesignated 56th Fighter Group (FG).
-- Jun 42	56FG reequipped with P-47 Thunderbolt.

13 Nov 42	56th first to break sound barrier when P-47s dove from 35,000 feet and reached speed of 725 miles per hour.
06 Jan 43	56FG reassigned to Kings Cliffe, England, and joined air war in Europe.
08 Apr 43	Unit reached operational status.
13 Apr 43	56FG aircraft flew first combat missions of World War II, fighter sweeps over occupied France.
12 Jun 43	First enemy aircraft destroyed by 56th fighters.
19 Aug 43	Capt Gerald M. Johnson was first 56FG ace.
06 Jun 44	During D-Day Invasion, group flew 142 protective cover and air-to-ground sorties.
07 Jul 44	Capt Fred Christensen, Jr., set new record when he destroyed six enemy aircraft during single engagement.
01 Nov 44	First unit to shoot down a jet fighter
14 Jan 45	56FG destroyed German synthetic oil facilities at Magdeberg. Luftwaffe Chief Herman Goering said destruction of facilities caused oil shortage, resulted in collapse of German war machine.
13 Apr 45	Group fighters attacked German airdrome and destroyed or damaged 190 of the enemy Aircraft parked there.
18 Oct 45	56th inactivated at Camp Kilmer, NJ. During its two-year involvement in World War II, 56FG destroyed 673.5 enemy aircraft in aerial combat, destroyed another 324 on the ground, probable kills totaled 58, and another 543 were damaged. 56th posted that record of 1598.5 aircraft damaged/destroyed while losing only 25 fighters in aerial combat. Unit produced 39 aces.
01 May 46	56FG activated at Selfridge Field, MI.
15 Aug 47	56FW activated at Selfridge Field, MI, and assumed command jurisdiction over 56FG.
14 Jul 48	56FW P-80 jets flew first west-to-east crossing of Atlantic by military jets, and proved to Soviets USAF's ability to deploy large fighter contingents long distances in short time.
25 Apr 50	Wing converted from F-80 Shooting Star to F-86 Sabrejet.
06 Feb 52	56FW and 56FG inactivated at Selfridge AFB, MI.
18 Aug 55	56FG activated at O'Hare International Airport, Chicago.
01 Oct 59	56FG reassigned to K. I. Sawyer AFB, MI.
01 Feb 61	56FW activated at K. I. Sawyer AFB, MI.
01 Jan 64	56FW inactivated.
16 Mar 67	56FW activated and redesignated an air commando wing (ACW).
08 Apr 67	56ACW assigned to Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand.
01 Aug 68	56ACW redesignated special operations wing (SOW).
-- May 75	56SOW involved in rescue of crew of merchant ship, Mayaguez, after it was seized by Cambodian pirates.
30 Jun 75	56SOW redesignated a tactical fighter wing, reassigned to MacDill AFB, FL, and conducted F-4 training.
22 Oct 79	First F-16A delivered to wing as it converted from F-4 to F-16.
01 Oct 81	Unit redesignated a tactical training wing.
27 Jun 88	Wing received its first F-16C Fighting Falcon.
30 Jul 91	Congress approved the closure of MacDill AFB, FL.
01 Oct 91	56th redesignated a fighter wing.
01 Jun 92	Wing became a unit of ACC.
25 Feb 93	56FW's 63FS reassigned without personnel or equipment to 58FW at Luke AFB.
14 May 93	56FW's 62FS inactivated.
19 Aug 93	56FW's 61FS inactivated.
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04 Jan 94	56FW transferred all assets to 6th Air Base Wing. All 56FW units except wing inactivated. 56FW remained assigned at MacDill AFB without personnel/equipment.
28 Feb 94	USAF announced 56FW to be reassigned to Luke to take over host unit responsibilities from the 58FW effective 1 April 1994.
01 Apr 94	58FW redesignated a special operations wing and reassigned to Kirtland AFB, NM. Most 58-numbered units inactivated as did the 311FS and 314FS. 56FW moved from MacDill

to Luke and assumed assets/mission of 58FW. 308FS moved from Moody AFB, GA, to Luke and assigned to 56FW. All 56-numbered groups and squadrons, including four new medical squadrons, activated and assigned to 56FW as were the 61FS and 309FS. Additionally, the 62FS, 63FS, 310FS, 425FS, 461FS, and 550FS were reassigned from 58FW to 56FW.

10 May 94 Anti-encroachment meeting at Luke chaired by member of Governor's Save Luke AFB Committee concluded that unchecked development could not continue because of area's lack of water.

01 Aug 94 USAF moved to ensure continued availability of water for Luke by locating environmental law attorney at base to represent Luke in on-going water rights adjudication process.

05 Aug 94 461FS inactivated as part of plan to reassign the F-15E program to Seymour Johnson AFB, NC.

24 Aug 94 Mission Ready Technician Program to provide mission ready crew chiefs to F-16 units USAF-wide implemented in wing.

01 Oct 94 56th Support Sq inactivated. Maintenance of Goldwater Range assumed by civilian contractor.

01 Jan 95 311FS activated to conduct foreign training. Unit had provided foreign training under 58FW and had inactivated on 1 April 1994.

31 Mar 95 550FS inactivated ending all F-15 training at Luke. Since program began in 1974, 3,303 students trained in F-15A/B/C/D, and 495 pilots and 402 weapons systems officers trained in F-15E for total of 4,200 graduates.

19 Apr 95 Luke acted as staging area for local rescue team which assisted in Oklahoma City bombing disaster.

01 Jul 95 LANTIRN confidence check area used to calibrate avionics prior to flying to range for mission moved to west to accommodate Mountain Vista Ranch and Sun City Grande.

13 Jul 95 Arizona Senate Bill 1062 became law and required sellers of dwellings in high noise zones around military airports to disclose that fact to potential buyers.

24 Aug 95 City of Glendale annexed Luke AFB as part of efforts to protect base from encroachment.

09 Sep 95 Members of 56MDG provided medical assistance for victims of AMTRAK train derailment west of Luke.

01 Oct 95 Intricate chain of command caused reassignment of Mission Ready Technician Program to 82d Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas. Program became tenant at Luke.

01 Dec 95 311FS inactivated. Its foreign training mission and most its jets transferred to 162FG (ANG) in Tucson.

22 Mar 96 1995 AICUZ study released and delineated smaller noise print than previous studies.

01 May 96 House Bill 2355 became law and required state real estate department to prepare noise maps allowing potential home buyers to determine if prospective dwellings located in high noise areas.

16 May 96 Last Peace Carvin II F-16A/B jets left Luke as part of plan to upgrade program to Block 42 F-16C/D jets.

25 Jun 96 Terrorist attack on facility in Saudi Arabia killed 19 Americans and injured 250 more. Among injured were three men from 56FW.

08 Aug 96 21FS activated to conduct F-16 training for Taiwan AF (TAF).

11 Sep 96 President Bill Clinton visited Luke during area stop. Was first such visit since 14 Nov 74 when President Gerald Ford visited base to preside over acceptance ceremony for first F-15.

06 Dec 96 First Block 20 F-16A/B jet delivered to 21FS for use in TAF training program.

-- Jan 97 Arizona agreed to sell USAF 81,000 acres of state land on range for \$10 million. State initially wanted \$40 million.

27 Jan 97 It was reported wing to train more basic course students to offset losses of pilots separating/retiring early. Other added taskings included training in night vision goggles (NVG), forward air controller (airborne) (FAC (A)), Block 52 F-16C/D ground training, and enhanced Maverick training.

--Feb 97 1995 AICUZ study noise print revised when it was noted that improper throttle settings used to compute noise zones. Revised noise print reduced high noise zones around base by 2,739 acres.

28 Feb 97 TAF F-16 program graduated its first class when four men in Class 97 CCTW completed conversion course.

01 Jul 97 56th Security Police Sq redesignated security forces sq.

27 Aug 97 US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued opinion that air operations on Goldwater Range not likely to jeopardize continued existence of Sonoran pronghorn antelope. Environmentalist group's charge that air-to-ground missions jeopardized existence of that endangered species prompted FWS opinion.

26 Sep 97 City of Surprise signed Arizona League of Cities and Towns resolution for development of strategic plan to preserve state's military airports.

29 Oct 97 First FAC (A) class, 98 AFG, and its four students completed training with 310FS.

30 Nov 97 Wing's mission capable (MC) rate for F-16 dropped below major command standard for the first time since August 1984, and was prelude to parts-supply problems which affected wing into 1999.

-- Jan 98 Gila Bend AICUZ study completed due to increased operations at field and to provide guidance in land planning in area.

07 Feb 98 Chronic parts shortfall resulted in Saturday flying to ensure programmed fighter training completed on time.

12 Feb 98 It was reported that Arizona House Bill 2515 which sought to constrict fly zones around military airports was killed in committee.

18 Mar 98 A Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 reported low fuel and diverted to Luke where it landed safely.

08 Apr 98 It was reported El Mirage planned zoning changes that could have allowed residential development 1.5 miles from base's accident potential zones.

29 May 98 Longtime USAF supporter Senator Barry M. Goldwater succumbed at age 89.

02 Jun 98 425FS began another upgrade for Peace Carvin II Program from Block 42 to Block 52 jet.

15 Jul 98 ASU West study put economic impact of base at \$1.9 billion annually.

30 Jul 98 US Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl (Rep, AZ) attached amendment to Defense Appropriations Bill for USAF to lease 640-acre parcel north of base from Phoenix for \$1 annually to prevent Surprise from seizing land for development. USAF downsizing so service did not enter into lease.

24 Aug 98 El Mirage gave tentative OK for projects in base's high noise zones including 1,000 Hancock homes, 600 Broad Land Properties units, and 708 Parque Verde structures.

28 Sep 98 310FS mobile training team began NVG training for ANG pilots.

02 Oct 98 Wing submitted draft LEIS under Land Withdrawal Act to Congress requesting Goldwater Range be withdrawn from public use indefinitely rather than for 15 years.

-- Oct 98 Engine parts shortfalls saw wing with 39 holes in February 1998. In April wing started getting parts and by end of October turned 39 holes into first spare engine in five years.

14 Oct 98 Westside leaders explored 17,000-acre agricultural buffer zone around Luke to protect it from encroachment.

19 Nov 98 56TRS graduated first Block 52 class (ground training) when six men in Class 99 AJX completed training.

18 Feb 99 Engine summit held at Luke to look at problem areas in 220/E engine. Summit recommended more funds for fixes to 220/E engine on AETC F-16s and USAF F-15s, and GE F110 engine that powered most F-16s.

27 Mar 99 56FW leadership joined USAF leadership in naming engine problems as cause of recent aircraft losses at Luke.

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27 Mar 99 Jet losses caused renewed calls for establishment of 17,000 acre agricultural zone around base to protect it from encroachment.

27 Apr 99 Wing leadership addressed media after sixth jet loss in six months and noted four of losses due to engine problems.

30 Apr 99 Wing posted 62.6 MC rate, lowest F-16 MC rate ever for a Luke unit. Driving factors were engines and grounding of fleet for safety inspections.

17 May 99	HB 2579 creating agricultural district around Luke signed into law but not funded.
31 May 99	It was reported US Senator John McCain withdrew his amendment designed to withdraw range from public use from Military Funding Bill because of pressure by environmentalists and Indians.
11 Jun 99	Augmentor separation problem that caused two jet losses resolved. Fix included performing multiple technical orders on augmentors for cracks in welds. Permanent fix was installing seamless augmentors in engines.
26 Jun 99	Environmental group sued USAF and other federal agencies charging their actions not ensuring recovery of endangered Sonoran pronghorn antelope on range.
26 Jun 99	Wing submitted LEIS to Congress for renewal of range withdrawal.
30 Jun 99	Blade tip curling that caused loss of jet resolved. Fix included more inspections and installing 4,000 cycle low pressure turbines with improved materials not prone to curling. News turbines had faulty blade outer air seals (BOAS). Fix was installing new BOAS.
30 Jun 99	Series of F-16 losses prompted President Bill Clinton, US Senator John McCain, and acting USAF Secretary F. Whitten Peters to call for Congress to allocate more funds for engines and spare parts.
01 Jul 99	Phoenix/Surprise dispute over 640 acres in base's fly zone resolved by land swap. Surprise traded Phoenix 926 acres north of base which Phoenix planned to keep as agricultural zoning. Phoenix gave Surprise 640-acre parcel, but with deed restrictions to ensure compatible development with base's operations.
20 Sep 99	Wing lost seventh jet in 11 months. Loss not traced to recent trends as was due to electrical problems. Loss of seven jets extraordinary in modern times, but paled when compared to 1940s when Luke had over 400 crashes in a year. Worst period was Sep 1943 when had 58 major accidents.
05 Oct 99	Congress approved withdrawal of Goldwater Range from public use for 25-year period. USAF/Navy took over range management from Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Cabeza Prieta Wilderness Area that made up third of range not withdrawn. No effect on training as memorandum of understanding with Department of Interior still allowed overflights of area. Approval required compilation of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP).
31 Dec 99	On-going shortage of pilots due to early separations/retirements, resulted in plan to implement Associate F-16 IP Program designed to reassign some wing IPs to operational units to alleviate pilot shortages, and augment wing's dwindling IP force with active Guard, Reserve and traditional Reserve IPs.
04 Jan 00	Mission of 21FS changed from providing F-16 qualification training for TAF pilots to providing proficiency training for pilots already qualified in jet.
25 Jan 00	First Associate IP Program sortie flown with the 62FS.
-- Feb 00	Wing conducted first deployment in support of Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF). Sent 75 personnel to Middle East. EAF was asset management concept designed to protect US interests in world hot spots by ensuring US presence in those areas.
03 Mar 00	301FS activated to implement associate IP program. Unit assigned to 944FW, but under operational control of 56OG.
08 Mar 00	Luke produced 50,000th fighter training graduate since 1941 as 1st Lt Joshua G. Padgett completed basic course with 62FS.
17 Apr 00	Senate Bill 1415 became law. It amended previous legislation, and required attorney general to review mandatory reports from cities for compatible land use planning. Gave attorney general authority to penalize cities for non-compliance.
14	
25 May 00	Surprise officials' objections to developer's plan resulted in dropping 700 homes from project and no homes planned in high noise zones.
22 Jul 00	Parts shortfall resulted in Saturday flying to meet programmed flying training requirements.
05 Aug 00	Parts shortages caused Saturday flying to meet training schedule.
20 Sep 00	Northern departures with live ordnance terminated due to proposed building of two new schools. Live ordnance missions restricted to departures to south.
20 Sep 00	Encroachment concerns arose over proposed 10,000-home development near White Tanks

Mountains and under a entry/departure control point for base's air traffic.

20 Oct 00 AETC officials named Luke on short list for possible beddown of joint strike fighter.

28 Nov 00 US Senator John McCain warned next round of base closures could name Luke to close because of encroachment.

09 Dec 00 Continuing pilot losses resulted in reassignment of 944FW from ACC to AETC and unit joining 56FW; Kelly AFB, Texas; Springfield ANGB, Ohio; and 162FW in Tucson in providing F-16 qualification training.

23 Jan 01 Local landowner, neighbor, and longtime Luke supporter, Mrs Edith Denny, succumbed at age 90. She was daughter of Paul and Florence Litchfield who arrived in area in 1916 and were major economic force in West Valley.

13 Feb 01 Federal judge ruled for AF biological assessment and EIS in suit over antelope filed by environmentalist group (see 26 Jun 99 entry); however, suit not dismissed against other defendants. No impact on fighter training.

04 May 01 House Bill 1120 signed into law and provided funding for agricultural district around Luke (see entry for 17 May 99).

18 May 01 El Mirage Mayor Roy Delgado pledged support for Luke and promised not to build homes south of Peoria Ave that encroached on base.

13 Jun 01 Wing headquarters moved from bldg S-11 at main gate to bldg 452 near flightline in a move to enhance force protection.

01 Jul 01 Senate Bill 1525 became law. Directed compatible development in areas affected by state's military airports. Law also extended base's southern accident potential zone from 15,000 to 30,000 feet.

10 Jul 01 Phoenix/Tempe dispute on flight safety hazards at Sky Harbor Airport due to proposed new football stadium resulted in resurrection of question of regional airport at Casa Grande. Governor's Regional Airport Advisory Committee on 18 May 1993 had voted against such a proposal and named Williams AFB as a reliever airport. Regional airport at Casa Grande could have impacted Luke's access to range.

20 Jul 01 State Attorney General's opinion on SB 1525 determined it did not apply to school districts (see 1 Jul 01 entry). Resulted in state school facilities board decision to expand three schools in base's noise/accident zones. Board, however, planned to move location of two new schools out of zones.

26 Aug 01 Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told US senators he wanted a round of base closures to save money. US Senator John McCain noted more personnel planned for state's bases and said that, "...bodes well for Luke and Davis-Monthan."

11 Sep 01 Terrorist attacks in New York and Wash DC resulted in highest level of force protection at Luke, launching of 27 combat air patrol missions over Phoenix Metroplex, and deployment of 65 personnel (as of 31 Dec 01) in support of war on terrorism.

27 Oct 01 Media reported an extremely significant event when noted that Defense Department to ask Congress for relief on environmental requirements for military ranges, requirements that were adversely impacting training and readiness.

06 Nov 01 Air Force/Navy assumed management of Goldwater Range from BLM.

13 Nov 01 944FW began F-16 qualification training.

06 Dec 01 Wing/Tohono O'odham Nation signed memo of understanding on continued overflights of reservation as required by executive order.

07 Dec 01 State's fiscal shortfalls resulted in funding cuts for Luke agricultural preservation district under SB 1120. (see entry 4 May 01).

14 Dec 01 Media reported Congress OKs round of base closures in 2005.

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-- Dec 01 Ocotillo Manor base housing vacated in preparation for demolition and construction of new housing complex.

15 Jan 02 308FS joined 310FS in providing NVG training to satisfy combat air forces' request that all F-16 pilots be qualified in the device.

24 Jan 02 El Mirage started building in 75 decibel area three miles north of base's runways.

-- Feb 02 Congressional staffers alerted to negative effects of regional airspace systems plan. Effects included actions by local airports that would impact military training routes/operating areas,

close LANTIRN confidence check route, affect access to range, affect simulated flameout pattern, restrict use of Gladden/Baghdad during inclement weather, and increase air traffic controller workloads. Commercial/general aviation growth resulted in loss of 290 Luke flying hours in August 2001.

23 Mar 02 US Senator John McCain met area leadership and charged all to reach consensus on actions to resolve developments impacting base's southern corridor to range. He stressed local action and did not indicate federal government becoming involved.

17 Apr 02 State criticized in media for spending \$31 million on yet-to-be-built football stadium, but only \$0.5 million to protect asset with \$1.9 billion annual economic impact, Luke AFB.

29 Apr 02 Luke first base removed from Superfund List. List designed to locate/sanitize sites where past practices resulted in generation of hazardous waste. All 33 sites found on base sanitized.

06 May 02 Governor signed SB 1393 which rectified shortcomings in SB 1525 (see entry for 01 Jul 01) by expanding definitions of political subdivisions to include schools as prohibited from construction in military airport noise/accident zones.

08 May 02 Wing leadership told Goodyear City Council if southern air corridors at Luke threatened and stifle operations and efficiency at base, then Luke could be targeted for closure.

09 May 02 Massive 14,000-home development called Verrado launched on 8,800 acres near White Tanks Mountains in Buckeye and southwest of base.

13 May 02 Air encroachment in growing Phoenix metro area and its negative effects on a high-value assets, Luke AFB, was brought to attention of general public in front page article in area's major daily.

14 May 02 Glendale-commissioned McGuire study revealed military had \$5.6 billion annual economic impact on state. Luke's impact was \$1.4 billion and lower than previously thought due to survey guidelines.

16 May 02 US Senator John McCain said if Luke survives 2005 base closures, he would push for assignment of F-22 or X-35 at base.

05 Jun 02 Robsen communities reduced Goodyear development in Luke's noise zone from 204 to 145 homes. Goodyear used 1995 noise print instead of 1988 noise contours in zoning property. Now city wanted no homes built in noise zone.

07 Jun 02 944FW graduated its first class from F-16 qualification training. Class 02-AB had six students. All 944FW students received ground training with 56TRS and, therefore, were counted in 56FW student production totals.

11 Jun 02 Undersec Defense Installations/Environment Raymond F. Dubois, Jr., asked Congress for relief from environmental laws for military.

17 Jun 02 Plight of Duncan Farms located in southern APZ featured in area media. Farm toured 20,000 visitors annually since 1992, but 2001 expansion of APZ and shift of most base operations to south affected safety of farm and its visitors.

24 Jun 02 Goodyear approved actions to request right-of-way use of state land easements south of base to protect Luke by developing noise abatement and accident mitigation corridor.

--Jun 02 An environmental assessment required when wing shifted most operations to the south revealed shift had no significant impact on environment.

12 Aug 02 Wing leadership briefed on plan to build cargo airport nine miles west of Gila Bend. Facility would impact Luke's access to range and commercial air routes to San Diego and LA. Luke opposed the facility and Gila Bend government did not support it.

13 Aug 02 Pentagon began working with National Governors Association to develop laws governing state-wide military compatible land uses.

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21 Aug 02 The (Representative) Bob Stump (Rep AZ) National Defense Authorization Act's Cooperative Buffer Zone Acquisition Program implemented and allowed military to enter discussions on encroachment near military bases, and to acquire property near bases to limit incompatible development or preserve habitat where environmental restrictions affected training.

26 Aug 02 Fund raising began for 5,000-student Catholic university as part of Verrado planned community in Buckeye (see entry 9 May 02).

30 Aug 02 Surprise OK'd 318-acre development called Litchfield Manor, partly in base's high noise zone. City explained had to OK project as area zoned prior to 2001 when smaller 1995

noise print used rather than larger 1988 print mandated by state law.

14 Sep 02 West Valley/Luke Regional Land Use Open House held to get inputs from various publics on land use near Luke. Comments from attendees to be included in Arizona Military Airports Regional Compatibility Project report in attempt to merge general plans of 10 cities and desires of land owners.

19 Sep 02 Duncan Farms located in southern APZ agreed to stop student tours of farm (see entry 17 Jun 02).

26 Sep 02 Wing leadership noted RJ Springer Homes building 1,000 homes on one acre lots near Luke Aux Field #1 where 13,000 operations conducted annually.

27 Sep 02 Wing reached initial operating capability under new standard wing structure. Major change was returning to specialization with jets and technicians reassigned from operations group to logistics group which was redesignated a maintenance group.

11 Oct 02 US Senate approved \$13 million for land acquisition near Luke.

17 Oct 02 Phoenix area's lack of water seen as affecting unchecked development; however, Buckeye annexed 35,000 acres which included Hassayampa River watershed, the richest aquifer in state, and had plans for a community of up to 80,000 homes.

26 Oct 02 Natl Governors Association Center for Best Practices said Arizona a leader in using legislation to protect military airports.

06 Dec 02 It was learned that Veterans Administration and Federal Housing Administration home loan guidelines did not deny loans for homes in high noise areas.

07 Dec 02 Surprise dedicated monument on former site of Luke's Aux Field #3 to pilots who trained at base in World War II.

14 Dec 02 Some 100,000 active duty, retiree and dependents in Arizona faced possible identity theft resulting from theft of records and equipment during burglary at Phoenix TriWest HMO.

31 Dec 02 Engine/spare parts problems that resulted in low MC rates since Jun 00 eased and resulted in wing exceeding MC rate standard from Sep through Dec 02.

11 Feb 03 A 186-person ANG contingent arrived at Luke to augment base's security forces.

11 Feb 03 It was reported Goodyear to purchase Duncan Farms for \$3.5 million (see entry 17 Jun 02).

27 Feb 03 Wing leadership named city of Surprise development plans as greatest threat to continued operation of Luke AFB.

12 Mar 03 Stop Loss implemented to ensure units had sufficient personnel to conduct mission. Affected 680 wing personnel who had approved retirement/separation dates.

20 Mar 03 Operation IRAQI FREEDOM began.

22 Mar 03 Arizona Dept of Commerce released Western Maricopa/Luke AFB Regional Compatibility Plan. Plan sought to meld land use desires of military, government officials and landowners in areas affected by base's operations.

04 Apr 03 Wing officials criticized regional compatibility plan for shifting from looking for compatible use of land near base to compensating landowners for loss of use (see 22 Mar 03 entry).

08 Apr 03 Fighter Country Coalition sent letter to Intermodal Group opposing group's plan to build airport at Gila Bend. Said facility would jeopardize military mission in Arizona (see entry for 12 Aug 02).

22 Apr 03 Gila Bend Town Council approved Resolution 03-10 which enhanced military use of Gila Bend AFAF and, therefore, stopped Intermodal Group Airport (see entry 12 Aug 02).

25 Apr 03 Peoria to spend \$25,000 to motivate area cities to raise over \$100,000 to hire firm to lobby Congress for funds to buy land around Luke.

01 May 03 President Bush announced end to large scale operations in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

08 May 03 Talks began with Glendale for building of public training facility in base's southern corridor. Seen as compatible use.

10 May 03 Surprise passed ordinance directing real estate offices display maps of Luke's noise zones.

16 May 03 Dysart School District projected to grow from 9,000 to over 16,000 in 2007 and require eight new schools.

20 May 03 Surprise mayor wins re-election on platform to protect Luke.

22 May 03 Goodyear had 3,718 acres in southern departure corridor; planned 99 percent of land for compatible use with Luke's mission.

22 May 03 Two days after re-election on platform on saving Luke, Surprise mayor voted to OK 1,300 homes in base's high noise zone.

23 May 03 County had flood plain on approach to Aux #1 and planned flood basins in southern APZ; seen as compatible land use.

27 May 03 US Senator John McCain/Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano criticized Surprise mayor for actions seen as detrimental to national defense and illegal (see entry for 22 May 03).

27 May 03 It was reported Buckeye residents OK'd annexing of Douglas Ranch where town planned 80,000-home community.

27 May 03 Governor's Military Facilities Task Force established by executive order to demonstrate to DoD state ready to enhance and maintain military presence in Arizona.

10 Jun 03 F-16 crash traced to manufacturing defects in engine turbine blade. Forced standdown of 70 percent of 56FW jets. Problem affected all F-16/F-15 users of F100 engine.

13 Jun 03 AZ attorney general defined grandfathering in SB 1525 (see entry 1 Jul 01) as development plan/zoning approved before 2001.

16 Jun 03 56FW formed Community Initiatives Team to work encroachment by improving communication with cities and stakeholders.

16 Jun 03 In an about face, Surprise voted to rezone Kenly Farms II from residential to commercial.

18 Jun 03 Surprise reacted to criticisms by noting that El Mirage approved 10 times more dwellings than county and other towns near base.

20 Jun 03 Retired US Representative Bob Stump succumbed at age 76. He headed House Armed Services Committee until retiring last year. Media said he was factor in Luke's surviving past base closures.

11 Jul 03 A rebuilt Ocotillo Manor base housing complex south of Glendale Ave opened for occupancy with 95 new units.

12 Jul 03 Surprise changed policy and began to restrict residential development near base.

24 Jul 03 Work began on joint land use study for Aux #1. Study to use F-16 noise profiles and suggest compatible land uses.

31 Jul 03 Stop Loss ended (see entry 12 Mar 03)

15 Aug 03 It was reported base housing to convert to civilian contract in 2005 and housing to be reduced from 874 units to 425.

01 Sep 03 CSAF directed 56LRS fuels flight moved to 56EMS in move designed to place sortie support units under one maintenance unit commander.

30 Sep 03 56FW attained full operational capability in new combat wing structure (see entry 27 Sep 02).

30 Sep 03 Wing ended FY03 with average MC rate of 83.4, despite safety standdowns due to engine problems.

01 Oct 03 Air Force blue suiter positions for back shop support to 21/425FS converted to 119 Air Force civilian positions.

08 Oct 03 US Navy DC-9 experienced in-flight emergency and made safe landing at nearest haven, Luke AFB.

14 Oct 03 Fish and Wildlife declared DART tow targets on Cabeza Prieta as habitat thereby negating need for 56FW to retrieve targets.

17 Oct 03 56FW received its first Block 32 F-16, number 86-6296, from the 944FW as a backfill jet.

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13 Nov 03 It was reported US Customs Service conducted three weeks of tests of Predator unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) on Goldwater Range to determine feasibility of using UAV for surveillance along the US/Mexican border south of Gila Bend.

15 Nov 03 Landowners value land near base at \$60,000 per acre.

20 Nov 03 Surprise planned to annex Aux #1 to control lot splitting.

-- Nov 03 2003 AICUZ released because of change in noise zones resulting from shifting of operations from north to the south.

04 Nov 03 Congress allocated \$14.3 million for land acquisition near base.

05 Dec 03 It was reported that DoD received Congressional approval to begin BRAC process.

17 Dec 03 Senator John McCain noted Congress approved \$14.3 million for Luke land acquisition. Warned area leaders that federal government alone could not protect Luke. He asked that state, county, local governments step up and raise funds for land acquisition around base.

17 Dec 03 Wing official noted success of graduated density concept that allowed low density development near noise zones and increased densities away from those areas. Plan favored by local towns and DoD planned to possibly use it at all installations.

17 Dec 03 City of Surprise praised for turning from anti-Luke to pro-Luke decisions on land use.

31 Dec 03 56FW deployed 645 men and women to locations throughout world in support of humanitarian/peacekeeping operations.

31 Dec 03 Captive breeding program began for Sonoran pronghorn antelope with construction of large pen in Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge. Program attempted to save endangered local herd from extinction.

31 Dec 03 House Bill 2605 going through legislative process; was designed to protect all state's military installations.

31 Dec 03 Wing encroachment officials worked to place 26 new schools near Luke in least hazardous locations.

31 Dec 03 Arizona Public Service cooperated with base by ensuring new power poles to service growing communities near Luke did not affect flightpaths or communications.

31 Dec 03 City of Surprise to annex near Aux #1 to prevent lot splitting and protect field from encroachment.

31 Dec 03 County against Phase IV of Patton Place Estates near Aux #1 for safety reasons.

31 Dec 03 Natural gas storage facility planned near Luke was seen as threat to health and safety of base personnel.

31 Dec 03 It was reported that 221 individuals died in 2003 attempting to cross Sonoran Desert from Mexico to US.

18 Jan 04 It was reported property owners near Aux #1 formed group called Arizona Coalition to Protect Property Rights.

03 Feb 04 Force Shaping program implemented to reduce manning in-line with Congressionally-directed personnel ceilings.

03 Mar 04 Governor formed permanent Military Affairs Commission to deal with preservation/growth of military installations in state.

19 Mar 04 Pinal County officials denied zoning for La Osa Ranch north of Tucson which would have negatively impacted access to range.

31 Mar 04 First stakeholders' meeting held to explain land purchase program.

05 Apr 04 Falcon Star began and was designed to increase service life of jets through improvements to fuselage and structural components.

19 Apr 04 Governor signed HB 2141 which provided same protection for Aux #1 rest of state's military airports enjoyed.

23 Apr 04 Governor signed HB 2134 which prohibited construction of natural gas storage facility near Luke (see entry 31 Dec 03).

26 Apr 04 Governor signed HB 2662 requiring state real estate maps depict military training routes.

17 May 04 Governor signed HB 2140 which established a funding stream to buy easements/property that encroached on base.

18 May 04 A 30-member contingent of civilian contract workers began augmenting Luke's security forces to enhance force protection.

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-- May 04 JLUS for Aux #1 completed.

06 Jul 04 USAF senior leader postulated half F-16 fleet could be retired due to base closures and to save money for other programs.

14 Jul 04 First purchase of 143 of 273 acres for force protection near munitions storage area completed for \$950,000.

15 Jul 04 Maintenance of 21FS jets converted from blue suiter to civilian contract.

01 Oct 04 Manpower office reassigned from wing to 56MSG in move to align specialties with similar functions.

01 Oct 04 A test that reassigned 56LRS fuels to 56EMS to determine any benefits to sortie generation ended with no significant results (see entry 1 Sep 03). Fuels to be returned to 56LRS.

07 Oct 04 Group of West Valley leaders met with DoD officials to stress area's support for continued existence of Luke AFB.

12 Oct 04 City of Surprise announced city land near Aux #1 to be rezoned for airport preservation.

12 Oct 04 Goldwater Range Task Force met by Congressional directive find ways endangered species on range and military use of facility could co-exist.

01 Nov 04 186-person Army Guard contingent defederalized and relieved from Luke security augmentee duties (see entry 11 Feb 03).

01 Nov 04 Augmentee Duty Program (READY) began drawing personnel from various specialties to augment base security forces.

20 Nov 04 LANTIRN confidence check flightpath to calibrate instruments prior to LANTIRN mission moved for second time (see entry 1 Jul 95) due to planned developments.

30 Nov 04 56MDG announced planned major reduction in medical services as directed by higher headquarters.

08 Dec 04 AZ Governor Janet Napolitano met with DoD official to stress area's support for continued existence of Luke.

09 Dec 04 Wing officials noted range closed 37 times in 2004 so Border Patrol could remove groups that wandered onto range.

28 Dec 04 It was announced that an endangered species on range, the pronghorn antelope, was rebounding from near extinction as its numbers increased from less than two dozen to some 58 animals.

31 Dec 04 56FW deployed 401 personnel worldwide in support of humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

31 Dec 04 Wing leadership outlined Luke's requirements as facility from which to take off and land (Luke AFB), access to range, continued use of Aux #1 and Gila Bend where 12,000 and 45,000 operations, respectively, conducted annually (loss of two sites would move those operations to Luke and quadruple base's noise zones), and continued use of Baghdad/Gladden Airspace.

-- Dec 04 Congress passed the Readiness/Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) which provided the military with funds to purchase land to stem incompatible land use.

25 Feb 05 It was reported 244 acres near munitions storage area purchased for \$3 million from SunCor (see 14 Jul 04 entry).

-- Feb 05 Joint Land Use Study completed on Gila Bend and Goldwater Range.

07 Mar 05 Range task force (see entry 12 Oct 04) reported to Congress on coexistence of antelope on range and air operations thru continued captive breeding and forage enhancement programs.

08 Mar 05 Surprise voters OK Prop 300 rezoning 106-acre Kenly Farms II from residential to commercial.

11 Mar 05 Expeditionary Thunderbolt Training implemented to give deploying personnel look at combat scenarios they might face at deployed sites.

02 Apr 05 308FS jets were the first wing F-16s to fly dissimilar air combat missions against the F-22 Raptor during deployment to Tyndall AFB.

04 Apr 05 It was reported one acre Phoenix land in MSA procured for \$15,400 which completed land purchases in MSA area.

07 Apr 05 Phoenix mayor issued proclamation that 920 acres north of base to be zoned for compatible use with base's mission.

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03 May 05 Border Patrol began flying three-to-four nightly helicopter missions from Gila Bend AFAF over range to detect undocumented aliens.

09 May 05 Goodyear/Pebble Creek dispute over 145 homes in high noise zone resolved by moving building site to new location of increased density. Settlement of dispute resulted in all 3,783 acres in southern departure corridor being zoned for compatible use.

13 May 05 BRAC announced 56FW to lose 37 jets as well as 278 slots.

25 May 05 Contingent from Polish AF visited base after Poland bought 48 F-16s.

25 Jun 05 Wildfires contained after burning 58,000 acres on range.

06 Jul 05 Wing's fleet grew by three jets when RSAF unit at Cannon AFB, NM, inactivated and sent three jets to 425FS.

15 Jul 05 Over 70 near misses since 2000 prompted wing to call for creation of special airspace rule.

29 Aug 05 President George W. Bush visited base. It was third visit by a sitting US President. President Gerald Ford visited on 14 Nov 74 and President Bill Clinton on 11 Sep 96.

04 Sep 05 The first 54 of a contingent of 93 people from wing deployed to Gulf Coast to aid in relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina which damaged 95 percent of facilities at Keelser AFB.

15 Sep 05 President Bush endorsed BRAC commission's recommendations for base closures and

realignments. Wing to lose 22 jets as well as 425 positions. However, which jets the wing was to lose was to be decided on by wing officials.

15 Sep 05 Common Configuration Implementation Program (CCIP) began; designed to upgrade selected systems on Block 42 jets to Block 52 capabilities.

21 Sep 05 56MDG contingent deployed to Dominica and treated 3,000.

23 Sep 05 Base's two main gates closed indefinitely for force protection and due to personnel shortfalls caused by hurricane relief and Southwest Asia deployments.

28 Sep 05 Services terminated at 56MDG ambulatory procedures unit and operating rooms.

29 Sep 05 Services terminated at 56MDG extended hours clinic and podiatry.

19 Oct 05 Women's Health Clinic closed.

08 Nov 05 BRAC commission's recommendations passed into law by Congress.

14 Nov 05 First basic course air-to-ground exercise held at Gila Bend utilizing bare-base environment for students to gain experience in flying/fighting from undeveloped sites.

31 Dec 05 Wing deployed some 644 personnel to various locations throughout the world to assist in peacekeeping/humanitarian efforts.

31 Dec 05 Wing official stated Wittman resident's suit to challenge HB 2141 protecting Aux #1 would be defeated in court for the second time.

31 Dec 05 Mobile training teams from 310FS train 46 in FAC-A course.

31 Dec 05 Lease for 700 acres at Aux #1 up for renewal and state wanted price increase from \$35,000 to \$140,000 annually for 10 years. Negotiations resulted in price lowered to \$70,000 annually for savings of \$700,000.

11 Jan 06 USAF announced cuts in aerial fleet to gain funds for F/A-22.

03 Feb 06 Quadrennial Defense Review released and stressed leaner, meaner force to include cuts in personnel to fund recapitalization of new weapons systems.

17 Mar 06 Hands-on cell phone use while driving outlawed at Luke.

Ca Mar 06 EIS completed on integrated natural resource management plan for range.

09 May 06 Site activation task force for BRAC-directed 944FW realignment held at Luke.

22 May 06 Expeditionary Thunderbolt Training (see entry 11 Mar 05) designed to give deploying members training in possible scenarios they might face at deployed sites moved to Gila Bend to take advantage of bare base/desert environment.

29 May 06 Some 180 sorties over the Baghdad-Gladden Area and Aux #1 cancelled over a four-day period when glider meet at Pleasant Valley Airport posed what base officials felt was safety hazard to F-16 pilots flying in areas.

01 Jun 06 Enlisted Club terminated evening dining and administrative functions. Those services available for all ranks at Officers' Club.

-- Jul 06 Wing formed AF Smart Operations 21 Team to find ways to work smarter and reduce non-value added functions.

15 Aug 06 First 944FW jet, F-16C 86-0273, left Luke under BRAC directive that unit was to lose all 21 of its F-16s and some 480 personnel authorizations.

23 Aug 06 CSAF directed 40,000 personnel cut to gain funds for weapons systems recapitalization.

02 Sep 06 Sixteen-member team which included nine people from 56MDG deployed to Guatemala where treated 7,500, and give out more than 14,000 prescriptions.

14 Sep 06 Mark Grace Thunderbolt Field officially dedicated. The new baseball field in Fowler Park was a \$300,000 project funded by Summit Builders, the Arizona Diamondbacks, and former D-back player, Mark Grace.

30 Sep 06 Wing deployed 647 men and women from 41 specialties to numerous locations within the nation and foreign sites to support humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

31 Oct 06 Class 06 C2L with two students in TX course was last class trained by 944FW.

04 Oct 06 USAF announced new F-35 joint strike fighter to be based at Eglin AFB FL for flight/maintenance training.

07 Nov 06 Prop 207 designed to restrict zoning or face litigation passed by voters.

-- Nov 06 Environmentalist group filed intent to sue FWS and wing for delisting Bald eagle on range from endangered species list.

25 Nov 06 It was announced base housing to be privatized on 1 Jan 06 (see entry 15 Aug 03).

27 Nov 06 Construction began on Litchfield Park overpass to ease congestion and aid force protection.

31 Dec 06 BRAC decisions resulted in 56FW losing 425 personnel authorizations, retirement of 22 jets. Decision made that all jets to be retired were Block 25 models (see entry 15 Sep 05).

31 Dec 06 56FW official sees plans for 300% increase in local airports.

31 Dec 06 Wing briefings to general aviation pilots accompanied by decrease in near misses. Request for special airspace traffic rule at FAA in Wash DC.

31 Dec 06 Purchase price of 634 acres in south accident potential zone 2 of a staggering \$87,000 an acre or \$55 million resulted in deletion of property from any acquisition attempts.

31 Dec 06 Landowners' price for sale of property 400 percent above Corps of Engineers offers. Led to condemnation actions which owners favored as could get higher price through arbitration.

31 Dec 06 Some \$18.8 million of \$27 million Congress appropriated for land purchase were obligated.

25 Jan 07 10,000-acre site near Gila Bend approved for VW test track; seen as compatible land use with air operations at Gila Bend.

06 Feb 07 Base Housing transferred to civilian firm under privatization program (see entry 15 Sep 05).

12 Feb 07 Last three 944FW F-16s left Luke AFB in preparation for inactivation of 302FS.

27 Feb 07 USAF leadership signed the record of decision on integrated natural resources management plan (INRMP) which was compiled by direction of the Congress (see entry for 5 Oct 99).

10 Mar 07 In-line with BRAC decisions, the 944FW's 944MXG and 302FS were inactivated.

14 Mar 07 Navy officials sign record of decision on INRMP (see entry for 5 Oct 99).

06 May 07 56FW leadership signed the final INRMP (see 5 Oct 99 entry).

12 Apr 07 56FW initially to lose 37 jets under BRAC, but Change 06-01 directed 944FW lose 15 jets and 56FW 22 (see entry 13 May 05).

22 Jun 07 Giant Voice public address system activated at Luke AFB.

01 Aug 07 Public Affairs and multimedia merged to increase utility of scarce personnel assets.

17 Aug 07 It was reported USAF leadership to direct reorganization to global wing structure where jets and technicians reassigned from maintenance complex to Ops Group.

30 Sep 07 56FW FY07 budget reduced by \$67 million when costs for aviation gas Air Force-wide consolidated and paid for by office in the Air Staff.

30 Sep 07 56FW deployed 465 men and women during FY07 to national and international sites to support peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

30 Sep 07 All but \$800,000 of \$13 million appended to FY03 MILCON program was obligated to purchase land/easements.

01 Oct 07 Information technicians moved from offices and consolidated mostly at group level to increase utility of those personnel.

01 Oct 07 56FW FY08 budget reduced by \$147 million when costs for parts Air Force-wide consolidated and paid for by office in Air Staff.

01 Oct 07 Life support/survival equipment technicians moved from fighter squadrons and
24
consolidated at 56OSS to increase their utility.

22 Oct 07 Thirty F/A-18 Hornets from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar deployed to Luke as part of a move to protect the aircraft from fires raging throughout southern California.

14 Nov 07 First 56FW jet reassigned under BRAC was F-16D 83-1175 to 162FW, Tucson Airport.

18 Dec 07 Lightning Street on base renamed Gillespie Drive for MSgt Randy J. Gillespie of the 56LRS who was killed in combat while TDY to Afghanistan.

31 Dec 07 Some \$6 million of \$14.3 million appended to FY04 MILCON program for purchase land/easements remained unobligated.

09 Jan 08 Army agreed to second antelope captive breeding pen near Yuma Proving Grounds (see entry 31 Dec 03).

28 Jan 08 Overpass over Glendale Ave opened to traffic and dedicated to Major Troy Gilbert who lost his life in Iraq.

15 Feb 08 Wing leadership announced 63FS to inactivate in 2009 to comply with BRAC directives on F-16 realignment at Luke (see 15 Sep 05 entry).

26 Feb 08 63FS Class 08 ALL and its four members first to complete F-22 Raptor Lead-in Course.

28 Feb 08 It was announced that plan to merge 56SVS and 56MSS nearing approval.

10 Mar 08 BRAC directive moving LANTIRN pods/personnel to Hill AFB, Utah, completed.

10 Mar 08 BRAC directive moving positions to Eglin AFB, Florida, for F-35 stand-up completed.

10 Mar 08 BRAC directive moving LRS positions to Langley AFB, Virginia, for regional supply squadron completed.

20 Mar 08 Attorney general opinion on HB 2141 required development plan/zoning be approved by 31 Dec 04 for developments near Aux #1. Opinion advantageous for Luke as would halt incompatible development around Aux #1

31 Mar 08 Force Shaping ended after separating 766 Luke personnel since it started (see entry 3 Feb 04).

12 May 08 CSAF directed reorganization to global wing structure with inactivation of 56/756AMXS and MOS with AMUs realigned to fighter squadrons, movement of LRS from MSG to MXG and redesignation of MXG as Materiel Group.

26 May 08 56CPTS lost 12 authorizations due to transfer of military pay and travel pay functions to Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth AFB, SD.

30 May 08 It was reported Volunteers to the Air Force Program implemented where members of Arizona Civil Air Patrol provided manpower assistance to 56FW in non-combat roles.

05 Jun 08 Sec AF Michael Wynne and CSAF Gen Moseley asked to resign over nuclear incidents.

06 Jun 08 It was announced 944FW's 301FS to be reassigned to Holloman AFB, NM. Unit provided support for 944FW IPs augmenting 56FW IPs under Associate IP Program (see entry 31 Dec 99). 69FS to take over 301FS mission.

13 Jun 08 Last CCIP Block 42 F-16 scheduled for Block 52 upgrades left Luke (see entry 15 Sep 05).

27 Jun 08 Acting SecAF Donley directed delay in reorganization to global wing structure (see entry for 12 May 08).

30 Jun 08 Program to purchase/lease land/easements to protect base's access to range completed.

14 Jul 08 Thirty-four of wing's Block 42 jets found to have cracks in bulkhead which provided structural rigidity to jets. Flying and class sizes reduced while repairs on-going.

25 Jul 08 Study released by governor's office puts Luke annual economic impact at \$2.17.

28 Jul 08 Four French AF Rafale jets made first deployment ever to this nation and Luke AFB for a 10-day practice session prior to participating in a Red Flag exercise.

27 Aug 08 New CSAF Gen Norton A. Schwartz directed reorganization to Global Wing be halted. (See entry for 12 May 08.)

30 Sep 08 State sued Maricopa County for failure to enforce law on compatible land use near Aux #1 and county sued state over property rights near Aux #1.

30 Sep 08 Luke deployed 684 personnel during FY08 in support of humanitarian and peace-keeping operations throughout the world.

07 Oct 08 Three-day ssite survey began to determine feasibility of basing F-35 at Luke; decision expected in 2011.

06 Nov 08 Last of 77 jets to receive CCIP upgrades returned from Hill AFB (see entry 15 Sep 05).

24 Nov 08 310FS which had traditionally provided LANTIRN, FAC and NVG training started instruction in basic course.

09 Dec 08 State and municipal officials met with SecAF and CSAF to stress area's continued support for existence of Luke and to press for basing of F-35 at the installation.

56FW ORGANIZATION**HQ AETC****HQ 19TH AIR FORCE****56 FW**56CPTS/STAFF

<u>56OG</u>	<u>56MXG</u>	<u>56MSG</u>	<u>56MDG</u>
<u>56OSS</u>	<u>56AMXS</u>	<u>56CS</u>	<u>56AMDS</u>
<u>56TRS</u>	<u>756AMXS</u>	<u>56CES</u>	<u>56DS</u>
<u>21FS</u>	<u>56CMS</u>	<u>56CONS</u>	<u>56MDOS</u>
<u>61FS</u>	<u>56EMS</u>	<u>56LRS</u>	<u>56MDSS</u>

62FS
63FS
308FS
309FS
310FS
425FS

56MOS

56MSS
56SFS
56SVS

56th Fighter Wing/Group Commanders

56th Fighter Group

No permanent commander
Maj David D. Graves
Col John C. Crosswaithe
Maj Hubert A. Zemke
Col Robert B. Landry
Lt Col David C. Schilling
Col Hubert A. Zemke
Lt Col David C. Schilling
Lt Col Lucian A. Dade, Jr
Lt Col Donald D. Renwick
Inactivated
Col David C. Schilling
Lt Col Thomas D. DeJarnette
Lt Col David C. Schilling

Tenure

Jan-Mar 41
May 41-Jul 42
Jul-Sep 42
Sep 42-Oct 43
Oct 43-Jan 44
Jan 44
Jan 44-Aug 44
Aug 44-Jan 45
Jan-Aug 45
Aug-Oct 45
Oct 45-Apr 46
May 46-Jul 48
Jul-Aug 48
Aug 48-Jan 49

Lt Col William D. Ritchie	Jan-May 49
Lt Col Irwin H. Dregne	May-Sep 49
Maj Ralph A. Johnson	Sep-Oct 49
Lt Col Francis S. Gabreski	Oct 49-May 51
Lt Col George L. Jones	May-May 51
Col Ernest J. White, Jr	May-Nov 51
Unknown	Nov 51-Feb 52
Inactivated	Feb 52-Aug 55
Unkown	Aug 55-Apr 57
Col John R. Murphy	Apr-Jul 57
Unknown	Jul-Nov 57
Col Leo C. Moon	Nov 57-Aug 59
Lt Col Bacchus B. Byrd, Jr	Aug-Sep 59
Lt Col Russell C. Jackson	Sep-Oct 59
Col Phillip N. Loring	Oct 59-Nov 60
Col James W. Holt	Sep 60-Jan 61
Col James R. Reed	Jan-Feb 61
Discontinued	Feb 61
<u>56th Fighter Wing</u>	
Col William T. Hudnell	Aug 47-Jun 49
Lt Col David T. McKnight	Jun-Aug 49
Col James R. Gunn, Jr	Aug 49-Aug 51
Col George S. Brown	Aug 51-Feb 52
Inactivated	Feb 52-Feb 61
Col James F. Reed	Feb 61-May 63
Col John M. Konosky	May 63-Apr 64
Inactivated	Apr 64-Mar 67
Col Harry C. Aderholt	Apr-Nov 67
Col Roland K. McCoskrie	Nov 67-Nov 68
Col Edwin J. White, Jr	Nov 68-May 69
Col Patrick M. Fallon	May-Jun 69
Col Edwin J. White, Jr	Jun-Oct 69
Col Samuel E. Crosby, Jr	Oct 69-Aug 70
Col Edward J. Walsh, Jr	Aug 70-Jul 71
Col Jack A. Robinson	Jul 71-Jun 72
Col Norbert L. Simon	Jul-Dec 72
Col Robert E. Wayne	Dec 72-Jun 73
	28
Col William B. Owens	Jul-Sep 73
Col Ralph H. Bowersox	Sep-Sep 73
Col Charles F. Wood	Sep 73-Jul 74
Col Perry J. Dahl	Jul 74-Feb 75
Col Harry A. Goodall	Feb-Jun 75
Col Gerald J. Carey	Jul-Aug 75
Col Ernest A. Bedke	Aug 75-Nov 77
Col Charles J. Cunningham	Nov 77-Jul 79
Col Henry D. Canterbury	Jul 79-Jan 82
Col Henry Viccellio, Jr	Jan 82-Mar 83
Col Ronald R. Fogleman	May 83-Aug 84
Col Jimmy L. Cash	Aug 84-Feb 86
Col Joseph W. Ralston	Feb 86-Feb 87
Col James L. Jamerson	Feb 87-Jan 89
Brig Gen Ben Nelson, Jr	Jan 89-Sep 92
Brig Gen Marvin R. Esmond	Sep 92-Aug 93
Col Charles T. Ohlinger III	Aug 93-Jan 94

Active without Personnel or Equipment	Jan-Apr 94
Brig Gen Stephen B. Plummer	Apr 94-Apr 95
Brig Gen Marvin R. Esmond	Apr 95-Apr 96
Brig Gen Carrol H. Chandler	Apr 96-Jul 98
Brig Gen John L. Barry	Jul 98-Feb 00
Brig Gen Stephen T. Sargeant	Feb 00-Jun 02
Brig Gen Philip M. Breedlove	Jun 02- Jun 04
Brig Gen Robin Rand	Jun 04-Jun 06
Brig Gen Noel T. Jones	Jun 06-Jul 08
Brig Gen Kurt F. Neubauer	Jul 08-

Luke Field/AFB Commanders

<u>Luke Field</u>	<u>Date Assigned</u>
Brig Gen Ennis C. Whitehead	21 Apr 41
Col Ross G. Hoyt	13 Jul 42
Ltc Lester R. Harris	13 Feb 43
Col John K. Nissley	19 Mar 43
Ltc Graham M. Bates	28 Jul 44
Col John K. Nissley	05 Oct 44
Col Lance Call	09 Jan 45
Col John M. Davies	14 Apr 45
Col Graham M. Bates	05 Jul 45
Ltc Howard J. Bechtel	10 Sep 45
Col J. Garret Jackson	09 Nov 45
Col Lance Call	27 Oct 45
Col Gladwyn E. Pinkston	10 Dec 45
Luke Field Inactivated	30 Nov 46
<u>127th Pilot Training Wing</u>	
Luke AFB Removed from Inactive List	01 Jan 51
Col Henry J. Amen	01 Feb 51
Col Thomas L. Mosley	15 Oct 51
<u>3600th Flying Training Wing</u>	
Col Thomas L. Mosley	01 Nov 52
Brig Gen Charles F. Born	15 Nov 52
Brig Gen Turner C. Rogers	14 Aug 53
Brig Gen Robert L. Scott, Jr	01 Oct 56
	29
Col Warren H. Higgens	01 Oct 57
<u>4510th Combat Crew Training Wing</u>	
Col Warren H. Higgens	01 Jul 58
Brig Gen James W. Chapman, Jr	18 Jan 59
Col Bingham T. Kleine	24 Jun 61
Col Augustus M. Hendry, Jr	01 Nov 63
Col Arthur Small	16 May 66
Col Gerald Brown	01 Jul 67
Col Richard C. Catledge	01 Nov 67
Col John J. Burns	01 Oct 69
<u>58th Tactical Fighter Training Wing</u>	
Col John J. Burns	15 Oct 69
Col John S. Clarke, Jr	26 Jun 70
Col Albert L. Melton	31 Aug 72
Brig Gen Fred A. Haeffner	15 Aug 74
<u>Tactical Training Luke</u>	
Maj Gen Fred A. Haeffner	01 Apr 77

Brig Gen John F. O'Donnell	10 Jun 77
Brig Gen John L. Pickitt	17 Jul 78
Brig Gen William A. Gorton	03 Jan 80
<u>832d Air Division</u>	
Brig Gen William A. Gorton	01 Dec 80
Brig Gen Michael J. Dugan	31 Mar 81
Brig Gen Henry D. Canterbury	12 May 82
Col Daniel J. Sherlock	14 Dec 84
Brig Gen John M. Davey	16 Jan 85
Brig Gen Billy G. McCoy	25 Jul 86
Brig Gen Daniel J. Sherlock	29 Jun 87
Brig Gen Ralph T. Browning	04 Sep 90
<u>58th Fighter Wing</u>	
Brig Gen Ralph T. Browning	01 Oct 91
Brig Gen Patrick K. Gamble	21 Aug 92
Brig Gen Stephen B. Plummer	24 Jun 93
<u>56th Fighter Wing</u>	
Brig Gen Stephen B. Plummer	01 Apr 94
Brig Gen Marvin R. Esmond	14 Apr 95
Brig Gen Carrol H. Chandler	02 Apr 96
Brig Gen John L. Barry	17 Jul 98
Brig Gen Stephen T. Sargeant	15 Feb 00
Brig Gen Philip M. Breedlove	17 Jun 02
Brig Gen Robin Rand	08 Jun 04
Brig Gen Noel T. Jones	13 Jun 06
Brig Gen Kurt F. Neubauer	09 Jul 08

56th Fighter Wing Awards and Campaign

Distinguished Unit Citations

European Theater of Operations, 20 Feb-9 Mar 1944

Holland, 18 Sep 1944.

Presidential Unit Citation

Southeast Asia, 1 Nov 1968-1 May 1969

Southeast Asia, 1 Oct 1969-30 Apr 1970

Southeast Asia, 1 Apr 1972-22 Feb 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Dec 1970-30 Nov 1971

1 Dec 1971-29 Feb 1972

23 Feb 1973-28 Feb 1974

24 Jan 1975-2 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1977-1 Jan 1979

1 Jul 1980-31 May 1982

1 Jun 1984-31 May 1986
 1 May 1987-30 Apr 1989
 1 May 1989-30 Apr 1990
 1 May 1990-30 Apr 1991
 1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996
 1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998
 1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000
 1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003
 1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005
 1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2006
 1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007
 1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

6 Apr 1967-28 Jan 1973

World War II Campaigns

Air Combat European, African, Middle Eastern Theater, 7 Dec 41-11 May 45
 Air Offensive Europe, 4 Jul 42-5 Jun 44
 Ardennes-Alsace, 16 Dec 44-25 Jan 45
 Central Europe, 22 Mar-11 May 45
 Normandy, 6 Jun 44-24 Jul 44
 Northern France, 25 Jul-14 Sep 44
 Rhineland, 15 Sep 44-21 Mar 45

Vietnam Campaigns

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II, 9 Mar 67-31 Mar 68
 Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III, 1 Apr-31 Oct 68
 Vietnam Air/Ground, 22 Jan 68-7 Jul 68
 Tet 69/Counteroffensive, 23 Feb-8 Jun 69
 Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969, 9 Jun-31 Oct 69
 Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970, 1 Nov 69-30 Apr 70
 Sanctuary Counteroffensive, 1 May-30 Jun 70
 Southwest Moonsoon, 1 Jul-30 Nov 70
 Commando Hunt V, 1 Dec 70-14 May 71
 Commando Hunt VI, 15 May-31 Oct 71
 Commando Hunt VII, 1 Nov 71-29 Mar 72
 Vietnam Ceasefire Campaign, 30 Mar 72-28 Jan 73

56FW Primary Aircraft

<u>Fighters</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Period</u>
P-35	41	A-1	67-72
P-36	41	A-26	67-69
P-39	41-42	C-123	67-71
P-40	41-42	T-28	67-73
P-47	42-45	RT-28	67-72
P-(later F) 47	46-47	U-6	67
P-(later F) 51	47-50	U-10	67-69
P-(later F) 80	47-50	UC-123	68-71
F-86	55-59	C-47	69-72
F-94	51-52	QU-22	70-72
F-101	59-63	AC-119	71-72
F-4	75-82	EC-47	72-74
F-15E	94-95	OV-10	72-75
F-16	79-	O-1	73

<u>Helicopters</u>	<u>Period</u>
CH-3	67-72
CH-53	70-75
H-34	72
UH-1P	75-87

Luke Field/AFB Primary Aircraft

<u>Luke Aircraft</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Luke Aircraft</u>	<u>Period</u>
AT-6	41-46	F-100	57-71
P-40	42-45	F-86	61-62
P-38	44-45	F-104	64-83
P-51	44-45	F-5	64-89
F-51	51-53	A-7D	69-71
F-80	51-52	F-4	71-82
T-6	51-53	F-15A	74-91
F-84	51-64	F-15E	88-95
T-33	51-52	F-16	82-

56th Fighter Wing Lineage

Constituted the 56th Pursuit Group (Interceptor) on 20 Nov 1940
 Activated on 15 Jan 1941
 Redesignated 56th Fighter Group on 15 May 1942
 Inactivated on 18 Oct 1945
 Activated 1 May 1946
 56th Fighter Wing activated as parent unit of 56th Fighter Group on 15 Aug 1947
 Redesignated 56th Fighter-Interceptor Wing on 20 Jan 1950
 Inactivated on 6 Feb 1952.
 Redesignated 56th Fighter Wing (Air Defense) and activated on 28 Dec 1960.
 Inactivated on 1 Jan 1964.
 Redesignated 56th Air Commando Wing and activated on 16 Mar 1967.
 Redesignated 56th Special Operations Wing on 1 Aug 1968.
 Redesignated 56th Tactical Fighter Wing on 30 Aug 1975
 Redesignated 56th Tactical Training Wing on 1 Oct 1981.
 Redesignated 56th Fighter Wing on 1 Oct 1991.

56th Fighter Group Aces

<u>Name</u>	<u>Aerial Victories</u>
1. Lt Col Francis S. Gabreski	28
2. Capt Robert S. Johnson	27
3. Col David C. Schilling	23
4. Capt Fred J. Christensen, Jr.	22
5. Maj Walker M. Mahurin	21
6. Maj Gerald W. Johnson	16
7. Col Hubert A. Zemke	16
8. Capt Joe H. Powers	14.5
9. Maj Leroy A. Schreiber	14
10. Capt Felix D. Williamson	13
11. Capt Michael J. Quirk	12
12. Maj Paul A. Conger	11.5
13. Maj James C. Stewart	11.5

14.	Sq Ldr Michael Gladych	10
15.	1st Lt Stanley B. Morrill	10
16.	1st Lt Robert J. Rankin	10
17.	Maj George E. Bostwick	8
18.	Maj Michael J. Jackson	8
19.	1st Lt Glen D. Schiltz, Jr.	8
20.	2d Lt Billy G. Edens	7
21.	2d Lt Frank W. Klibbe	7
22.	Capt Robert A. Lamb	7
23.	Maj Leslie C. Smith	7
24.	1st Lt John H. Truluck, Jr.	7
25.	Capt Mark L. Moseley	6.5
26.	Capt James R. Carter	6
27.	Capt Walter V. Cook	6
28.	1st Lt George F. Hall	6
29.	1st Lt Cameron M. Hart	6
30.	1st Lt Robert J. Keen	6
31.	Capt Joseph H. Bennett	5.5
32.	1st Lt Frank E. McCauley	5.5
33.	1st Lt Donovan F. Smith	5.5
34.	Maj Harold E. Comstock	5
35.	1st Lt Joseph L. Egan, Jr.	5
36.	2d Lt Steven Gerick	5
37.	2d Lt Joe W. Icard	5
38.	Flt Off Evan D. McMinn	5
39.	Capt John W. Vogt, Jr.	5

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F-16 Flying Hour Programs FY83 -FY08

<u>Category</u>	<u>*FY83</u>	<u>FY84</u>	<u>FY85</u>	<u>FY86</u>	<u>FY87</u>	<u>FY88</u>
Sorties	4718	10881	13277	15452	19704	21,612
Hours	6086	14175	18080	21331	27382	28,991
ASD	1.29	1.30	1.36	1.38	1.39	1.34
PAI	38	50.2	57.8	66	87.4	90
UTE	13.7	18.0	19.1	19.5	18.8	20.0
<u>Category</u>	<u>FY89</u>	<u>FY90</u>	<u>**FY91</u>	<u>**FY92</u>	<u>FY93</u>	<u>FY94</u>
Sorties	20,750	21,108	19,138	17,664	**17,414	26,142
Hours	28,191.9	28,181.5	26,043	23,856	22,904	34,633
ASD	1.36	1.33	1.36	1.35	1.31	1.32
PAI	89.5	96	90.5	76	78.6	111.2
UTE	19.3	18.3	17.6	19.3	18.5	19.6
<u>Category</u>	<u>FY95</u>	<u>FY96</u>	<u>FY97</u>	<u>FY98</u>	<u>FY99</u>	<u>FY00</u>
Sorties	37,128	36,615	33,575	33,577	31,473	31,983

Hours	49,163	48,586	44,178	44,888	41,444.6	42,843
ASD	1.32	1.33	1.31	1.34	1.32	1.34
PAI	159.2	156	144	149.2	151	151
UTE	19.4	19.5	19.4	18.7	17.4	17.6
<u>Category</u>	<u>FY01</u>	<u>FY02</u>	<u>FY03</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY06</u>
Sorties	31,841	31,891	31,536	32,228	32,092	29,535
Hours	43,843	43,221	42,831	43,895	43,840	40,370
ASD	1.37	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.37	1.37
PAI	151	151	151	151	151	144
UTE	17.6	17.6	17.4	17.8	17.7	17.1
<u>Category</u>	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Avg</u>		
Sorties	29,038	25,283	653,654	25,140.1		
Hours	38,959.7	33,928.1	881,825.9	33,916.3		
ASD	1.34	1.34	NA	1.34		
PAI	138	143	NA	116.2		
UTE	17.6	14.7	NA	18.12		

ASD=average sortie duration; PAI-programmed aircraft inventory; UTE=aircraft utilization rate; NA=not applicable

*FY83 program only nine months as first jet arrived here 6 Dec 82.

**Decreases in flying FY91-FY93 resulted from drawdown of F-16A/B and buildup of F-16C/D.

FMS not included in above. FY93 sorties/hours 425FS=810/1,142; FY94 425FS=2,177/2,862.7; FY95 425FS=2,026/2,821.1; FY96 425FS=2,396/2,971.1; FY97 425FS=2,824/3,588.3, 21FS=2,285/2,946; FY98 425FS=2,834/3,623.6, 21FS=3,828/4,849.5; FY99 425FS=2,656/3,656.7, 21FS=3,665/4,738.4; FY00 425FS=2,985/3,949.1, 21FS=2,796/3,591.4; FY01 425FS=2,875/3,768, 21FS=2,602/3,431.7; FY02 425FS=2,511/3,651.7, 21FS=2,792/3,592.5; FY03 425FS=2,473/3,293.3, 21FS=2,630/3,398.8; FY04 425FS=2,214/2,528.4, 21FS=2,810/3,581.3; FY05 425FS=2,270/2,931.3, 21FS=2,635/3,514.1; FY06 425FS=2,716/3,469.7, 21FS=2,690/3,544; FY07 425FS=1,340/1,741.7, 21FS=2,627/3,512.8; FY08 425FS=1,318/1,697.5, 21FS=2,697/3,786.4

Luke Field/AFB Student Production 1941 – FY08

<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Dates Assigned</u>	<u>Graduates</u>
AT-6	41-46/51-53	14,076/51
P-40	42-45	2,814
P-38	45	280
P/F-51	45-46/51-53	61/624
F-84	51-64	6,930
F-100	57-71	3,451
F-86	61-62	123
A-7D	69-71	147
F-104	64-83	2,200
F-5	64-89	1,699
F-4	71-82	3,147
F-15A	74-91/	3,303
F-15E	88-95	897
F-16A/B/C/D	83-	<u>*16,500</u>

Total

**56,303

*Included 144 graduates assigned to 944FW who received ground training from 56TRS and, therefore, were included in 56FW graduate totals, and 65 FAC-A graduates trained by mobile teaining teams (MTT).

Total incomplete as MTT training not documented prior to 1982, 51-50 checkouts not formal course prior to early 1990s. Total was for US/FMS graduates of syllabus courses, not individual students as some graduated from more than one course. Because of incomplete statistics, exact total not possible; however, it is accurate to say, **"Luke is the world's largest fighter training base and produced over 56,000 graduates from fighter training programs from 1941 through FY08."